

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1. An expansion unit capable of being detachably mounted to an expansion bay of an information processing apparatus, the expansion unit comprising:

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an imaging device;

a moving member moving the imaging device between a state in which the imaging device is stored inside the expansion unit and a state in which the imaging device projects outwardly from the expansion unit; and

15 a member capable of changing a direction in which the imaging device is pointed when the imaging device is extended from the expansion unit,

20 the imaging device being detachable from the expansion unit and supportable in such detached state.

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2. The expansion unit as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

30 a supporting member for supporting the imaging device on the information processing apparatus when the imaging device is detached from the expansion unit; and

a storage compartment inside the expansion unit for storing the supporting member.

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3. The expansion unit as claimed in claim 2,  
wherein the supporting member is stored in the  
supporting member storage compartment.

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4. The expansion unit as claimed in claim 1,  
further comprising:

10 a cable for connecting the imaging device  
to the information processing apparatus when the  
imaging device is detached from the expansion unit;  
and

15 a cable storage compartment inside the  
expansion unit for storing the cable.

20 5. The expansion unit as claimed in claim 4,  
wherein the cable is stored in the cable storage  
compartment.

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6. The expansion unit as claimed in claim 5,  
wherein the cable is stored in the cable storage  
compartment with one end of the cable connected to  
30 the imaging device and another end of the cable  
connected to the expansion unit.

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7. The expansion unit as claimed in claim 5,  
wherein the cable is stored in the cable storage

compartment in a state in which the cable is disconnected from the imaging device.

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8. The expansion unit as claimed in claim 4, wherein the cable is stored in a wrapped state in the cable storage compartment.

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9. The expansion unit as claimed in claim 1, 15 further comprising:

a connecting member that is connected to the information processing apparatus when the expansion unit is mounted in the expansion bay of the information processing apparatus; and

20 a connecting mechanism connecting the connecting member and the imaging device,

the expansion unit being connected to the information processing apparatus via the connecting mechanism and the connecting member when the 25 expansion unit is mounted in the expansion bay.

30 10. The expansion unit as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a mechanism for preventing improper mounting of the imaging device on the expansion unit.

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11. A portable information processing apparatus comprising:

an imaging device;

a moving member moving the imaging device  
5 between a state in which the imaging device is stored inside the portable information processing apparatus and a state in which the imaging device projects outwardly from the portable information processing apparatus; and  
10 a member capable of changing a direction in which the imaging device is pointed when the imaging device is extended from the portable information processing apparatus,

15 the imaging device being detachable from the expansion unit and supportable in such detached state.

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12. The portable information processing apparatus as claimed in claim 11, further comprising a supporting member storage compartment inside the portable information processing apparatus for  
25 storing a supporting member that supports the imaging device on the information processing apparatus when the imaging device is detached from the portable information processing apparatus.

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13. The portable information processing apparatus as claimed in claim 11, further comprising  
35 a connecting cable storage compartment inside the portable information processing apparatus for storing a connecting cable for connecting the

imaging device to the portable information processing apparatus when the imaging device is detached from the portable information processing apparatus.

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14. The portable information processing apparatus as claimed in claim 11, further comprising a holder for storing both the supporting member for supporting the detached imaging device on the portable information processing apparatus and a connecting cable connecting the detached imaging device and the portable information processing apparatus.

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15. An imaging device comprising:  
a lens assembly;  
a first printed circuit board;  
a second printed circuit board separate  
25 from the first printed circuit board; and  
a housing for accommodating the lens assembly, the first printed circuit board and the second printed circuit board,  
the lens assembly being mounted on the  
30 second printed circuit board, an intermediate portion of a thickness in a direction of focus of the lens assembly having a height identical to a height of the first printed circuit board, the lens assembly and the first and second printed circuit  
35 boards being accommodated within the housing.

16. An imaging device comprising:  
a lens assembly;  
5 a printed circuit board; and  
a housing,  
the lens assembly being mounted on the  
printed circuit board, the housing accommodating the  
lens assembly and the printed circuit board, a focus  
10 adjustment portion of the lens assembly being  
provided on an intermediate portion of a thickness  
of the lens assembly in a direction of focus of the  
lens so as to be exposed at a side surface of the  
housing.

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17. An imaging device comprising:  
20 a base;  
a body disposed at substantially a right  
angle to the base;  
a connector disposed at substantially a  
right angle to the base;  
25 a connecting member that rotatably connects  
the body to the base; and  
another connecting member that rotatably  
connects the connector to the base.